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# **SISTER ACT 1992 PG**



### **➤ Film details:**

- **Director: Emile Ardolino**
- **Starring:**  
**Whoopi Goldberg,**  
**Maggie Smith,**  
**Kathy Najimy,**  
**Wendy Makkena,**  
**Mary Wickes,**  
**Harvey Keitel**
- **written by Joseph Howard**

**Currently on DVD**

### **➤ Synopsis**

**Sister Act is about Dolores, a Reno lounge singer who witnesses her mobster boyfriend killing an employer. She is then hidden in a convent under a witness protection program. Although she is convinced she will hate the religious life and that it will stop her doing all the things she is**

used to doing, she soon makes friends with the nuns especially Sister Mary Robert, Sister Mary Lazarus and Sister Mary Patrick. After the Mother Superior catches her going out to a bar in the night time followed by Sister Mary Robert and Sister Mary Patrick she orders her to join the most boring thing she can think of: the church choir. But 'Sister' Mary Clarence does have one talent; she knows about music and how to sing. Once she takes over teaching the choir she revolutionises the music. The choir proves to be a big success with the people in the surrounding neighbourhood, and soon the church is full, but her boyfriend is still out there looking for her and it is only a matter of time...

### ➤ Major themes of the Film

Vocation; religious life; worship; confidence; friendship; love

### ➤ Excerpts from the film to watch

Singing *Salve Regina* when people come in to the church to listen.  
Breaking out of the convent to visit a bar

### ➤ Some general issues for discussion

- How is Dolores character changed by convent life?
- How are the sisters changed by Dolores?
- Do you think the film comments accurately on the Church's attitude to change?
- What especially attracts the people to come into the church?
- How does Dolores manage to bring out musical potential in the sisters?
- What is the importance of friendship in the film?

### ➤ Passages from scripture

- Psalm 144 9-15 I will sing a new song to you O God
- Isaiah 12 Shout aloud and sing for joy O daughter of Zion

### ➤ Prayers and reflections

- About the *Salve Regina*

The *Salve Regina* is a prayer to the Virgin Mary. It is one of the Marian anthems in the Roman Catholic church and is the final prayer of the Rosary.

**It is a medieval prayer, originally written in Latin as:**

**Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,  
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.  
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae,  
ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.**

**Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos  
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;  
et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exilium ostende.  
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.**

**In English it is usually rendered as:**

**Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;  
to you do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.**

**Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
your eyes of mercy toward us;  
and after this our exile,  
show to us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.**